

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 176196
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03
HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 /077 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:BSKIRKPATRICK:IW:JZ
APPROVED BY AF:WCHARROP
AF/I:LSHURTLEFF (DRAFT)
AF/C:DJUNIOR (DRAFT)
AF/S:DKEOGH (DRAFT)
AF/E:RPOST (DRAFT)
NEA/EGY:CEMARTHINSEN (DRAFT)
NEA/IAI:WBSMITH (DRAFT)
P:JCARSON (DRAFT)
IO/UNP:SESCUDERO (DRAFT)
IO/ML:MJACOBS (DRAFT)
UNA:JTEFT (DRAFT)
UNA:AHOLLOWAY

-----119665 130603Z /14

P 122354Z JUL 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 176196

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 AND 3

TAGS: PEPR, IV, US, XA

SUBJECT: BACKGROUND FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PROPOSED MEET-
ING WITH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IN
GENEVA

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 176196

REF: A) ABIDJAN 5868, B) USUN 2551, C) ABIDJAN 5802

AF/W HAS PREPARED FOLLOWING BACKGROUNDER FOR YOUR PROPOSED
MEETING WITH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY
IN GENEVA. BACKGROUNDER REFLECTS EMBASSY ABIDJAN'S VIEWS
AS WELL.

1. AFRICA - WHEN YOU LAST SAW HOUPHOUET IN MAY 1977 HE CONCENTRATED MAINLY ON AFRICAN ISSUES NOTING THAT THE U.S. SHOULD PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN AFRICA SO THAT THE WEST CAN COUNTER AN INCREASE OF SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA THAT WOULD THREATEN THE FLOW OF MINERAL RESOURCES FROM AFRICA TO THE WEST. HOWEVER, HIS EMPHASIS APPEARS TO BE ON FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE PROBLEMS WHICH ATTRACT SOVIET CUBAN INTERVENTION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION WITH THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS. HE ALSO BELIEVES THE WEST SHOULD EXPLOIT ITS SUPERIOR CAPABILITY FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE.

2. SOUTH AFRICA - IN STEP WITH HIS CONTACTS LAST YEAR WITH VORSTER AND BOTHA, HOUPHOUET WILL PROBABLY PRESS FOR CONTINUED U.S. PRESSURE ON SOUTH AFRICA BUT EXPECT ONLY SLOW PROGRESS.

3. RHODESIA - AT THE UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT IVORY COAST WILL OPPOSE ANY RESOLUTIONS FOR EXCLUSIVE SUPPORT OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT. IVORY COAST BELIEVES THAT THE SALISBURY TERMS FOR AN INTERNAL SETTLEMENT ARE A STEP IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION BUT INADEQUATE. THEY FURTHER FEEL THAT UNQUALIFIED RADICAL AFRICAN AND COMMUNIST SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT GIVES THE FRONT THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY NEED NOT NEGOTIATE AND IS THEREFORE A MAJOR OBSTACLE TO NEGOTIATIONS.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 176196

4. NAMIBIA - IVORY COAST SUPPORTS THE CONTACT GROUP EFFORTS ON NAMIBIA AND BELIEVES THAT A UN FORCE SHOULD SUPERVISE ELECTIONS THERE. THEY FULLY AGREE THAT WALVIS BAY IS PART OF NAMIBIA.

5. ZAIRE - THE MOST INTERESTING AND NEWEST INDICATOR OF IVORY COAST'S CAUTIOUS APPROACH ON AFRICAN PROBLEMS IS ITS REACTION TO THE SITUATION IN SHABA. HOUPHOUET HAD MADE IT CLEAR TO US PREVIOUSLY THAT HE WAS DISAPPOINTED WITH OUR EARLIER LACK OF RESPONSE IN ZAIRE AND ANGOLA. HE GREETED OUR SHABA AIRLIFT WITH ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A HEATED INTERNAL ARGUMENT IN IVORY COAST OVER PARTICIPATION IN THE AFRICAN FORCES IN SHABA. IVORY COAST FIRST PUBLICLY INDICATED SUPPORT ONLY FOR FOOD AND SUPPLIES. IT WAS FINALLY DECIDED TO SEND A 105 MAN MEDICAL TEAM, NO TROOPS. APPARENTLY IT WAS BELIEVED THAT SENDING TROOPS TO SHABA MIGHT BE DOMESTICALLY UNPOPULAR. IT IS ALSO BELIEVED ANOTHER REASON FOR THE SHARP DEBATE WITHIN THE GOIC ON IVORIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE SHABA FORCE WAS THE CONCERN THAT IVORIAN PARTICIPATION (PARTICULARLY IN A MILITARY SENSE) WOULD BE SEEN TO BE INCONSISTENT WITH

HOUPHOUET'S POLICY OF DIALOGUE AND THAT SUCH AN INCONSISTENCY WOULD DISCREDIT IVORIAN FOREIGN POLICY. WE ALSO HAVE A REPORT THAT THE IVORY COAST MEDICAL TEAM IS NOT BEING SUPPORTED IN SHABA AND IS NOT EMPLOYED. FOR THESE REASONS HOUPHOUET WOULD PROBABLY BE RECEPTIVE TO PROPOSALS FOR AN EARLY WITHDRAWAL OF THE FORCES. HE IS PROBABLY CONCERNED THAT ANY FUTURE DECISIONS ON SHABA HAVE AN AFRICAN CHARACTER AND MOST LIKELY SUPPORTS EFFORTS TO ENCOURAGE REFORM BY MOBUTU.

6. THE HORN - HOUPHOUET HAS REPEATEDLY EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN. HE WROTE THE

PRESIDENT IN JANUARY URGING THAT WE ASSIST RECONCILIATION
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 176196

TION BETWEEN KENYA AND SOMALIA. WE INFORMED HIM THAT OUR EFFORTS IN THIS DIRECTION HAVE NOT BEEN FRUITFUL AND EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR HIS EFFORTS.

7. ANGOLA - HOUPHOUET MADE BEHIND THE SCENES EFFORTS LAST YEAR TO BRING ABOUT A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN THE UNITA AND MPLA FACTIONS IN ANGOLA AND URGED US TO DO THE SAME. HE WAS HAPPY TO HEAR OF THE MCHENRY VISIT TO ANGOLA AND WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE RESULTS.

8. DECADE ON RACISM - IVORIAN FOREIGN MINISTER AKE RECENTLY URGED AMBASSADOR DALLEY TO RECONSIDER THE USG DECISION NOT TO ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IN AUGUST ON THE DECADE ON RACISM. HE THOUGHT THAT IF THE US WAS NOT THERE TO SUPPORT ITS POINT OF VIEW THE MEETING WOULD GO BADLY FROM THE U.S. STANDPOINT, ESPECIALLY ON ZIONISM AND RACISM. AKE HIMSELF HAD DECIDED NOT TO GO.

9. CARTER VISIT - PRIOR TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT TO AFRICA IN APRIL HOUPHOUET EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT THE PRESIDENT NOT NEGLECT THE FRANCOPHONE COUNTRIES AND SUGGESTED A MEETING WITH SEVERAL FRANCOPHONE CHIEFS OF STATE IN ABIDJAN. HOWEVER, IN A CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR STEARNS, HOUPHOUET SAID THAT HE WAS RELIEVED THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS UNABLE TO VISIT ABIDJAN IN APRIL BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTY OF ASSURING APPROPRIATE RECEPTION ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE IN MIDST OF SO MANY OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT MONTH. THEREFORE, WE THINK THAT IT IS BETTER NOT REPEAT NOT TO HARK BACK TO THIS SUBJECT. IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY USEFUL, HOWEVER, FOR YOU TO EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE U.S. ATTACHES TO FRANCOPHONE AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND, IN PARTICULAR, PRESIDENT CARTER'S PERSONAL INTEREST IN VIEWS OF HOUPHOUET. IN THIS REGARD,
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 176196

HOUPHOUET HAS INDICATED POSSIBLE INTEREST IN A TRIP TO THE U.S. ALTHOUGH HE IS KNOWN NOT TO LIKE AIR TRAVEL. HE HAS CORRESPONDED WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

10. MIDDLE EAST - HOUPHOUET HAS A STRONG CONTINUING INTEREST IN OUR EFFORTS TO PROMOTE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST. HIS OWN EFFORTS INVOLVED CONTACTS WITH ELEMENTS OF THE PREVIOUS ISRAELI GOVERNMENT (HE MET WITH RABIN AT ONE POINT) AND WITH ELEMENTS OF THE PLO. MORE RECENTLY THE EGYPTIANS HAVE APPROACHED HOUPHOUET FOR SUPPORT ON SADAT'S PEACE EFFORTS, WHICH HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING PRIVATELY. ISRAELI ENVOYS VISITED ABIDJAN LAST DECEMBER. HOUPHOUET APPEARS NOT READY TO RE-ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL. THE PLO HAS

SOUGHT IVORIAN MEDIATION IN THEIR RELATIONS WITH SADAT. HOUPHOUET IS BELIEVED TO SUPPORT PLO PARTICIPATION IN ANY MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS. MOREOVER, HOUPHOUET BELIEVES THAT A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT WILL NOT LAST UNLESS IT INCLUDES THE CREATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE. CHRISTOPHER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, MEETING AGENDA, AMBASSADORS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE176196
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BSKIRKPATRICK:IW:JZ
Enclosure: X2 IS A DC ALSO
Executive Order: X3
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780286-0903
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780767/aaaaceqm.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9dcf7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 ABIDJAN 5868, 78 USUN NEW YORK 2551, 78 ABIDJAN 5802
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2030036
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BACKGROUND FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S PROPOSED MEET- ING WITH IVORY COAST PRESIDENT FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IN GENEVA
TAGS: PEPR, IV, US, XA, (HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FELIX), (YOUNG, ANDREW J)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9dcf7e76-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014